

WEEK/IRIDGE

DRAWER 9

CAMPAIGN - 1860

71 2009.025.04205



# Abraham Lincoln's Political Career through 1860

## John Breckinridge Campaign

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

## PRESIDENT PIERCE WITHOUT A CANDIDATE.

Is Waiting for Something to Turn Up.

Boston, July 13, 1860.

To the Editors of the Boston Post:

Gentlemen: I have seen, in several political presses, conflicting opinions ascribed to President Pierce in relation to the final action of the Baltimore Convention; and having had the opportunity, at an early period, in a friendly correspondence, to learn the views of that eminent citizen in a crisis so important to the democracy and the Union, which I know his further reflection has fully confirmed, I am happy to say that I am at liberty, without intruding on private courtesy, to send the letter to you for publication.

Very truly yours, &c., B. F. HALLETT.

HILLSBORO', N. H., June 29, 1860.

My Dear Sir: Your letter from Baltimore directed to me at New York, and forwarded thence to Concord, has at last reached me here, and I will not lay it aside without saying a word in reply. Your rejection as a delegate was, in my judgment, a clear violation of right, but it must have gratified your friends on the spot, as it has me since, to observe that the wrong perpetrated in your exclusion was not more palpable than your vindication of sound principles, and of your claims to a seat was conclusive and triumphant.

It was vain to hope for harmony after the action of the majority upon the report of the committee on credentials. It could hardly have failed to be understood generally that such action must terminate the existence of the Convention as a body representing the democracy of the Union, and eventuate in the present condition of the powerful and patriotic organization, which has so long upheld the equal rights, and vindicated in peace and in war the common honor of these confederated states. There has been, in fact, no nomination made in conformity with the established and recognised usages of that organization, and hence sound and faithful men will find nothing in the proceedings so far as the nominees are concerned, to bind their party fealty. Under these circumstances, it would gratify me exceedingly if our friends in all sections of the land could unite earnestly and cordially in the support of Mr. Breckinridge and General Lane, and thus insure for our cause signal victory; but this cannot even be hoped for. What then is to be done with a result so repugnant to your wishes? It is of less consequence to ~~dispute~~ who were right and who wrong upon the question of membership in the Convention, than it is to determine how the democratic party, which united is invincible, can avert the calamity of an incorrigible breach. If division is at present inevitable, it may be well to inquire whether it is to be permanent. Is devotion to principle, to the equal rights of the states, and to the integrity of the Union, to be sacrificed to any object of personal ambition, or, what is worse, if possible, to the blind control of passion, of which we have already had too much? Have the doctrines and sentiments of sectional fanaticism which culminated last year in the armed invasion of a sister state with the avowed purpose of exciting insurrection, ceased to be dangerous? Where is the evidence of change in the direction of sounder and more conservative opinions? I do not perceive it. It certainly is not to be found in the want of concert, so apparent among the great body of our countrymen who are opposed to the principles and policy of which Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Hamlin are now the representative men.

While it would be culpable weakness to intermit effort for the right, there is neither wisdom nor courage in turning from a full view of the embarrassments which beset our party, and the dangers which threaten our country. The only manly idea on which to act is "Things are bad and may be worse, but with the blessing of God we will try to make them better." At all events it is no time for crimination and recrimination among those who expect hereafter to need and to have each the support of the other. It cannot mend the past—cannot help the present—and cannot fail to be disastrous to the future. He who takes a different view and acts upon it will only accumulate a harvest of regrets by uttering sentiments to be explained, qualified or recalled, unless indeed he is already at the "halfway house," (where so many have stopped temporarily before) only to resume his march and take his place in the ranks of those whose opinions and action have been in direct antagonism with his own. I am not without hope that the sterling democracy of the Keystone state will be able unitedly to support the electoral ticket, already nominated by them, without regard to the preference of the individual nominees, but with a satisfactory understanding as to the manner in which the vote of the state shall, in certain contingencies, be cast; and

that their example may be followed by other states, and thus, something like unanimity be yet secured. Should a policy like this, at once conciliatory and just, be pursued, we may well be animated by fresh hope and confidence.

I expect to be in Boston next week, when we can interchange thoughts more fully and satisfactorily than it is possible to do by letter. In the meantime if you see the editors of the Post (especially Colonel Greene) will you express to them my thanks for the well considered, able and dispassionate article in which they grappled with the emergency of a divided National Convention, and for the characteristic promptitude with which they assumed a position, which I am confident more ample time for reflection will fully justify.

Very truly, your friend,

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

Hon. B. F. HALLETT, Boston, Mass.



### The Disunion Feeling of the Breckinridge Men.

It is as apparent as that the sun will rise to-morrow that the Breckinridge and Lane movement is intended to bring about a dissolution of this Confederacy, and those engaged in it have no other intention in view. The Camden (Wilcox County) *Alabama Register*, in hoisting the name of Breckinridge and Lane, accompanies it with these remarks:

"We run up our flag to-day for Breckinridge and Lane, the Democratic nominees for President and Vice-President of the United States. We have unwaveringly contended for the last ten years that it would be better (for all concerned) to make *two or more distinct* governments comprising the United States of America—and that such will ultimately be done, there can be no sort of doubt—but it should be done with fairness and justice to every section of the Union, and, believing that the party to which we belong is the *only reliable one to carry out this measure*, and secure to our own section all her rights, we intend to battle for its principles to the fullest extent of our ability."

General McQUEEN, of South Carolina, M. C., made a speech at Bennettsville, South Carolina, on the 4th of July, which we find reported in the *Son of Temperance* of that place. It says:

"He reviewed the Federal politics of the day, cordially indorsed the nomination of Breckinridge and Lane for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency—*said they were good and true men for the South to support*, and would maintain the Constitutional rights of the Confederacy, and should be supported by every Southern man. He feared, however that there was no hope of their election, for that the Rump Convention nominee would divide the Democratic party so much, that the Black-Republican nominees, Lincoln and Hamlin, would be elected; and if they were elected, the question arises, what will the South do? *If they submit, and permit Lincoln to be inaugurated President, without resistance and seceding from the Union, in such an event he, for one, believed that*

*we were a degraded people, and a thousand times more than the Colonies were under Great Britain. He counseled secession of the South from the Union, if a Black Republican was elected President of this Government, for it would be an open declaration of an irrepressible conflict against our peculiar institutions, which are as dear to us as our lives."*

The programme is to go out of the Union, if a Republican is elected President, and, by dividing the Democratic party, to bring about that very result. Hon. R. Barnwell Rhett made a speech at Charleston, on the 9th of July in which he said:

"Now, my friends, the consolidating is culminating in the Presidential election.—WE HAVE NOW GOING ON A STRUGGLE; WE HAVE NOW AT LAST GOT THE TWO SECTIONS OF UNION PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER.

\* \* \* \* \*

"If we are successful, there is a trust at least of happy and better days. If we are unsuccessful, what then? South Carolinians! what then? Will you allow a sectional fanatical party, whose creed is hatred to the South, the only cement of its heterogeneous mass is hostility to slave holders—will you allow these men to rule over you, to degrade you from your position as equals in this Confederacy? If so, forget Fort Moultrie, forget Eutaw, for their memory will be only a burning weight in your hearts, and will cause the mantle of shame to the cheek of your children."

Mark his exultation at the fact that the two "sections of the Union were at last pitted against each other"—by the nomination of Breckinridge and Lane by a Southern sectional party, and the nomination of Lincoln and Hamlin by a Northern sectional party. The election of the latter is to be the torch that will fire the South into revolution. The people will *spoil this arrangement, by electing the national ticket of Douglas and Johnson, which represents the whole Union instead of a part of it.*

Rockport Ind Democrat 8-11-1860

POLITICAL. The address of the Breckinridge National Committee says that Mr. Douglas is traversing the country, especially in the North and East, dosing out the panacea of "squatter sovereignty" as a remedy for all our ills, appealing to the "higher law," and endeavoring, with the magic of his words and his presence, to cajole the people to his support. In this he will miserably fail. In the exalted position of President of these United States, the people will exact something more than the qualities of a travelling mountebank.

Am. Soc. - Jan. 1860

Am. Soc. - Jan. 1860

POLITICAL. Mr. J. C. Breckinridge has consented to address his political friends of the Lexington (Ky.) Congressional District, in which he resides, to refute the accusations made against him by Judge Douglas at Concord, and Mr. Crittenden at Louisville. In his letter accepting the invitation to speak, Mr. Breckinridge says that he feels it "would be unjust to his principles, his friends and himself, to remain longer in silence beneath this torrent of defamation; and he hopes to repel every charge which has been made, to the satisfaction of all candid and honorable men."

It is the belief of many sagacious politicians that when the South becomes reasonably sure that an election of President by the people can be prevented, (of which there is not a very flattering prospect at present) so large a proportion of the Southern States will vote for Breckinridge and Lane as to make the last named the second highest candidate before the United States Senate, if that body should be compelled to make choice of a Vice President, to subsequently serve as acting President.

Many Southern men seem to entertain the idea that Mr. Lincoln will be elected President, and Mr. Douglas has accordingly been interrogated, on his tour through the South, as to the course he would recommend the South to pursue, under certain circumstances. His answers to the questions at Norfolk, reported by telegraph, were manly and emphatic. Mr. Douglas can evidently accomplish more good at the South than he can at the North at the present time.

